

## Hundreds of officers lose licenses over sex misconduct SMN Weekly

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The <u>Associated Press</u> conducted an investigation that delved into officer disciplining records from 2009 through 2014.

The police tell the public they are here to protect and serve, and in turn, the public is urged to obey authority and comply with the police.

A thousand officers getting fired might sound like a lot, but, of course, it's a pretty small fraction of the number of law enforcement officers in America. Twenty-six of the officers lost their licenses for sex-related misconduct.

The <u>Associated Press found</u> that about 1,000 police officers had their law enforcement license revoked for sexual misconduct while in uniform. Cato Institute reports released in 2009 and 2010 found sex misconduct the No. 2 complaint against officers, behind excessive force.

Law enforcement and the media are quick to criminalize the victims of police brutality and abuse, and delve into their records in order to sully their names, but this latest expose is poised to change the debate and place the spotlight on police criminality. With the exception of homicide, where there's literally a dead body to be explained away, cops will nearly never find out a crime was committed if no one reports it to them.

The problem will likely be within the highlight starting Monday in Oklahoma Metropolis, the place former Officer <u>Daniel Holtzclaw</u> is scheduled for <u>trial</u>, accused within the rapes, sexual battery or exploitation of thirteen ladies, together with J.L. The AP doesn't title alleged victims of sexual assault with out consent, and J.L. declined to be interviewed. During that probe, six more victims were identified.

Reporting misconduct is only the beginning. California and New York, for example, did not provide records because they have no statewide process for decertification. But even when states have decertification boards, they rarely have enough power to go after police officers who are being protected by prosecutors or by their departments. In the vast majority of states, an officer is only put at risk of losing his certification after he's already been held accountable for the

misconduct by someone else. But it's extremely common for officers (like any sort of employee) to resign instead of being fired.

Only 10 of the states that require police departments to report firings also require them to report resignations "in lieu of" firing, or resignations due to misconduct.

Those officers were taking part in the Auburn Police Department's Pathfinder program, created to take teens and young adults who lack direction and pair them with officers who will mentor them and teach them about law enforcement careers.

A few of the other nine states do not necessarily strip officers of their licenses for instances of sexual misconduct. More than 30 have the ability to also decertify for misconduct that may not be criminal. For those states, there is little information on these crimes. Their review "at once represents both the most complete examination of such wrongdoing and a sure <u>undercount</u> of the problem", they write. About 20 states provided a list of all decertified officers' names, agencies and dates and reasons for decertification.

In 2013, a San Antonio police officer was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for holding his family at gunpoint.

Henderson, Texas: An officer has been accused of sex crimes against a child. The state decertified Newport. In fact, as has become painfully obvious to even the most casual observer of the national dialogue on police misconduct, there is no nationwide database of officers who have even been fired for any cause because the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not collect such data.